1 Peter E. Garrell, Esq. (SBN 155177) FILED CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT pgarrell@garrelllaw.com John M. Kennedy, Esq. (SBN 156009) jkennedy@garrelllaw.com GARRELL LAW, P.C. FEB 2 8 2014 1875 Tandem Way Norco, California 92860 OF CALIFORNIA Telephone: (714) 451-4148 Facsimile: (714) 451-4148 **DEPUTY** Attorneys for Plaintiff CHUCKANUT BAY INVESTMENTS, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company 8 9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 10 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 11 12 CHUCKANUT BAY INVESTMENTS, Q VC1s4No. 1521 AVOC-AGAZ LLC, a Delaware limited liability 13 company, **COMPLAINT FOR** Plaintiff, 14 **Breach of Contract:** Interference with Contract: 15 vs. **Breach of Fiduciary Duty:** Fraud; BRANDON LEWIS, an individual; SHAWN FINNEGAN, an individual; RYAN POELMAN, an individual; THE Misappropriation; Unjust Enrichment: and Conversion EVOLUTION GROUP, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company; EVTECH HOLDING, LLC, a Delaware limited DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL liability company; EVTECH MEDIA, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; FE
20 EVTECH MEDIA, LLC, a Utah limited
liability company; ME EVTECH MEDIA,
LLC, a Utah limited liability company;
SUCCESS I-DIRECT HOLDING, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; SUCCESS I-DIRECT, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; EDGE
EVENTS HOLDING, LLC, a Delaware
limited liability company; EDGE
EVENTS, LLC, a Utah limited liability
company; LEADING HOLDING, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; 26 LEADING FINANCIAL, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; NOTE FINANCIAL HOLDING, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company;
NOTE FINANCIAL, LLC, a Utah limited)
liability company: EDGE REAL ESTATE)

COPY

COMPLAINT

1	HOLDING, LLC, a Delaware limited)
2	liability company; EDGE 2 REAL (ESTATE, LLC, a Utah limited liability)
_	company; INSIDER'S FINANCIAL
3	liability company; LEADING EDGE
4	FINANCIAL, LLC, a Utah limited)
5	liability company; INSIDER'S FINANCIAL, LLC, a Utah limited
	liability company; INSIDER'S FINANCIAL EDUCATION, a Utah dba;
	INSIDER'S EDGE, LLC, a Utah limited)
7	Delaware limited liability company:
8	PROPERTY DIRECT, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; PROPERTY
9	DIRECT HOLDING, LLC, a Utah limited)
10	liability company; SKW PREP, LLC, a (Utah limited liability company; SKW, (Utah limited liability company; SKW, (Utah limited liability company); SKW, (Utah liabil
11	LLC, a Utah limited liability company
	INSIDER'S CASH, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; VEIL CORPORATE,
12	LLC, a Utah limited liability company; VEIL SOLUTIONS, LLC, a Utah limited
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14	SOLUTIONS, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; ENHANCE NOTE NETWORK, LLC, a Utah limited liability
15	NETWORK, LLC, a Utah limited liability) company; MARATHON HOLDING,
16	LLC, a Delaware limited liability
	LLC, a Utah limited liability company:
17	BASE HIGH CAMP, LLC, a Utah limited) liability company; EDGE REAL ESTATE)
18	FUND, L.P., a Utah limited partnership:)
19	XS MEDIA HOLDING, LLC, a Delaware) limited liability company; BBL MARKETING, LLC, a Utah limited
20	MARKETING, LLC, a Utah limited liability company: FINNEGAN
21	liability company; FINNEGAN MARKETING, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; FYOLVED
Z 1	TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, a Utah limited
22	liability company; and LEGAL ONE, LLC, a Delaware limited liability
23	company, {
24	Defendants.
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	COMPLAINT

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Plaintiff CHUCKANUT BAY INVESTMENTS, LLC ("Chuckanut"), for its Complaint in this matter, alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Among other investments, Plaintiff Chuckanut invests in and consults with start-up companies. It provides seed money and thereby serves as an angel investor in various start-up firms. A newly formed company called The Evolution Group, LLC ("Evolution Group") approached the principal of Chuckanut, Eric W. Richardson ("Richardson"), at his home and office located in Manhattan Beach and El Segundo, California to seek initial seed capital. The Evolution Group was in the business of providing its clients with financial education services. After reviewing the financials and meeting with the Evolution Group's principals, in September 2007 Chuckanut made a \$200,000 investment in the Evolution Group, which was originally structured as a loan and thereafter converted to equity in the Evolution Group. Chuckanut was one of eight investors (collectively, the "Original Investors") who invested capital in the Evolution Group at this time.
- 2. Defendants Lewis, Finnegan and Poelman (the "Individual Defendants") joined the Evolution Group as executives in 2009 and 2010. After a continued period of operation and as the Evolution Group became successful, in the fall of 2010, the Evolution Group decided to buy out and redeem the shares of the Original Investors. Between December 2010 and October 2011, the Evolution Group made payments to the Original Investors in consideration of the redemption of their 2007 investment in the company.
- 3. In consideration for its initial capital and assisting the Evolution Group with the buy-out, and in further consideration of certain strategic consultant services provided by Richardson and Chuckanut to the Evolution Group, in February 2011, the Evolution Group entered into a "Membership Interest Agreement" ("Membership Agreement") with Chuckanut, pursuant to which Chuckanut became a five percent (5%) owner of the Evolution Group.

- 4. For the following approximate nine-month time period, the Evolution Group paid weekly membership distributions to Chuckanut in recognition of its five percent (5%) ownership interest in the Evolution Group.
- 5. In September and October 2011, the Evolution Group and the Defendants telephoned and informed Richardson that they had decided to re-organize the Evolution Group into smaller separate companies, but that Richardson and Chuckanut would continue to have and own a five percent (5%) share in the new organizations equal to the share in the Evolution Group. Richardson and Chuckanut relied upon the representations.
- 6. After the reorganization, in October 2011, in callous disregard for their contractual commitments and in an unscrupulous breach of their fiduciary duties to the minority shareholder, Chuckanut, Defendants abruptly stopped paying Chuckanut its weekly distribution payments commensurate with its five percent (5%) ownership interest in the Evolution Group.
- 7. In addition, Defendants did not, as promised, provide Chuckanut (or Richardson) with any ownership interest in the newly reorganized enterprises.

 Instead, Defendants created the new companies to conduct the business of the Evolution Group in order to misappropriate the ownership interest of Chuckanut.

 The foregoing conduct has proximately caused Chuckanut to suffer financial losses well in excess of the jurisdictional limits of this Court.

JURISDICTION and VENUE

- 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 (d). The matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and is between citizens of different states.
- 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants as they have regularly and purposefully availed themselves of the benefits of the State of California by conducting the educational seminars in California, by selling their promotional packages and educational programs to California residents, by

PARTIES

California. In addition, a substantial portion of the events giving rise to the claims

set forth below occurred in Los Angeles County.

- 11. Plaintiff CHUCKANUT BAY INVESTMENTS, LLC ("Chuckanut"), is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in Los Angeles County, California. Non-party Eric W. Richardson ("Richardson") is the managing member and holds a 95% membership interest in Chuckanut (an affiliated party of Richardson owns the remaining membership interest in Chuckanut). Richardson is a citizen of the United States, who is domiciled in Manhattan Beach, California, County of Los Angeles.
- 12. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant BRANDON LEWIS ("Lewis") was and is an individual who is a citizen of the United States, is domiciled in the State of Utah, and did business in the State of California.
- 13. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant SHAWN FINNEGAN ("Finnegan") was and is an individual who is a citizen of the United States, is domiciled in the State of Utah, and did business in the State of California.
- 14. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant RYAN POELMAN ("Poelman") was and is an individual who is a citizen of the United States, is domiciled in the State of Utah, and did business in the State of California.

County, Utah and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 6, 2011.

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- Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant 14 17. EVTECH MEDIA, LLC ("EvTech") was and is a Utah limited liability company, 15 domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in American Fork, Utah, and 16 did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 6, 17 2011. It does business as Training Follow-Up. In motions and declarations filed in 18 the Utah United States District Court, Central Division, EvTech declares that it is the 19 successor-in-interest to The Evolution Group. (See EvTech Media, LLC v. Zurixx, 20 LLC., et al, Case No. 2:13-CV-00621-DB. Docket Entry No. 66 - Plaintiff's 21 Opposition to Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (filed October 17, 2013, p. 9: 22 "Plaintiff EvTech is a leading provider of real estate education services and is the 23 successor-in-interest to The Evolution Group, LLC." See also Docket No. 67 -24 Declaration of Shawn Finnegan.) 25
 - Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant FE 18. EVTECH MEDIA, LLC ("FE EvTech") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in American Fork, Utah, and

- 1 did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 8,
- 2 2011. FE EvTech does business as: Investors Give Back; FE Note Financial; FE
 - Insider's Financial; FE Yancy Events; FE Your Real Estate Today; FE Edge 2 Real
- 4 Estate; FE Dean's Live Events; and FE Leading Financial.
- 5 19. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant ME
- 6 EVTECH MEDIA, LLC ("ME EvTech") was and is a Utah limited liability
- 7 company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in American Fork,
- 8 Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about
- 9 September 8, 2011. FE EvTech does business as: ME Note Financial; ME Insider's
- 10 Financial; ME Yancy Events; ME Your Real Estate Today; ME Edge 2 Real Estate;
- 11 ME Dean's Live Events; and ME Leading Financial.
- 12 | 20. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant
- 13 SUCCESS I-DIRECT HOLDING, LLC ("Success Holding") was and is a Delaware
- 14 | limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in
- 15 Utah County, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on
- 16 or about September 6, 2011.
- 17 Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant
- 18 SUCCESS I-DIRECT, LLC ("Success Direct") was and is a Utah limited liability
- 19 company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah County,
- 20 | Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about
- 21 September 6, 2011.

- 22 Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant
- 23 EDGE EVENTS HOLDING, LLC ("Edge Holding") was and is a Delaware limited
- 24 liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah
- 25 County, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or
- 26 about September 6, 2011.
- 27 | 23. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant
- 28 EDGE EVENTS, LLC ("Edge Events") was and is a Utah limited liability company,

domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in American Fork, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 7, 2011.

- 24. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant LEADING HOLDING, LLC ("Leading Holding") was and is a Delaware limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah County, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 6, 2011.
- 25. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant LEADING FINANCIAL, LLC ("Leading Financial") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah County, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 7, 2011.
- 26. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant NOTE FINANCIAL HOLDING, LLC ("Note Holding") was and is a Delaware limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah County, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 6, 2011.
- 27. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant NOTE FINANCIAL, LLC ("Note Financial") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Highland, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 7, 2011.
- 28. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant EDGE REAL ESTATE HOLDING, LLC ("Edge Holding") was and is a Delaware limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah County, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 6, 2011.

- 29. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant EDGE 2 REAL ESTATE, LLC ("Edge 2") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 8, 2011. During relevant time periods, based upon information and belief, Edge 2 did business as "Edge Real Estate, LLC."
- 30. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant INSIDER'S FINANCIAL HOLDING, LLC ("Insider's Holding") was and is a Delaware limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah County, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 6, 2011.
- 31. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant LEADING EDGE FINANCIAL, LLC ("Leading Edge") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Lehi, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on September 9, 2011.
- 32. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant INSIDER'S FINANCIAL, LLC ("Insider's Financial") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Provo, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 7, 2011. It does business as: Dean's Life Events and National Home Mortgage Conference.
- 33. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant INSIDER'S FINANCIAL EDUCATION ("Insider's Education") was and is a Utah "DBA" for Defendant Finnegan, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in American Fork, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on July 18, 2011.

2010.

- 35. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant PD HOLDING, LLC ("Property Holding) was and is a Delaware limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah County, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about September 6, 2011.
- 36. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant PROPERTY DIRECT, LLC ("Property Direct") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about August 31, 2010.
- 37. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant PROPERTY DIRECT HOLDING, LLC ("Property Direct") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about August 31, 2010.
- 38. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant SKW PREP, LLC ("SKW Prep") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about August 24, 2011.
- 39. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant SKW, LLC ("SKW") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in

- 40. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant INSIDER'S CASH, LLC ("Insider's Cash") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about August 24, 2011.
- 41. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant VEIL CORPORATE, LLC ("Veil Corporate") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in South Jordan, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about July 1, 2011. It does business as: VeilCorp and VeilComo. It was formerly known as Legally Mine, LLC and Legal Stop, LLC.
- 42. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant VEIL SOLUTIONS, LLC ("Veil Solutions") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about August 24, 2011. It does business as: VeilCorpCom.
- 43. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant ENHANCE WEB SOLUTIONS, LLC ("Enhance Web") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Lehi, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about December 21, 2010.
- 44. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant ENHANCE NOTE NETWORK, LLC ("Enhance Note") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about August 24, 2011.

- 48. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant EDGE REAL ESTATE FUND, L.P. ("Edge Fund") was and is a Utah limited partnership, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in American Fork, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about February 3, 2012.
- 49. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant XS MEDIA HOLDING, LLC ("XS Media") was and is a Delaware limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah County, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about October 7, 2010.
- 50. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant BBL MARKETING, LLC ("BBL Marketing") was and is a Utah limited liability

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- 51. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant FINNEGAN MARKETING, LLC ("Finnegan Marketing") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Highland, Utah, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about December 29, 2010.
- 52. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant EVOLVED TECHNOLOGIES, LLC ("Evolved Technologies") was and is a Utah limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Utah, and did business in the State of California.
- 53. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant LEGAL ONE, LLC ("Legal One") was and is a Delaware limited liability company, domiciled in Utah, with its principal place of business in Dover, Delaware, and did business in the State of California. It was registered on or about July 8, 2010.
- 54. Chuckanut is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the foregoing corporate and limited liability entities were, for the most part, established and registered in August and September 2011 and were and are used to perpetuate wrongful and inequitable use of the corporate and limited liability forms (the "Evolution Group Successors"). Chuckanut is informed and believes and thereon alleges that there is a unity of ownership between the individual defendants and the corporate defendants and between and among the corporate defendants such that any separateness between these defendants does not exist and never existed. The exercise of dominance and control by the individuals over the corporate and limited liability defendants mere shells and instrumentalities of the other defendants. Chuckanut is further informed and believes and thereon alleges that the corporate and limited liability defendants were and are inadequately capitalized to meet their outstanding financial obligations

- 55. Chuckanut is also informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all times mentioned herein, each of the Defendants, including the Evolution Group Successors, were and are the agents, servants, employees, representatives and/or alter egos of each of the other Defendants, and in doing the things hereinafter mentioned, were acting within the course and scope of their authority as such agents, servants, employees, representatives, and/or alter egos, with the permission and consent of the other Defendants.
- 56. Chuckanut is also informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all times mentioned herein, each of the corporate and limited liability defendants, including the Evolution Group Successors, were and are the mere continuation of Evolution Group and/or the assets of Evolution Group were transferred to the other corporate and limited liability defendants for the fraudulent purpose, in part to escape obligations like the contractual obligation owed to Chuckanut; and the corporate and limited liability defendants, as successors-in-interest to Chuckanut are jointly and severally liable for any liability of, and/or any injury cased by the conduct of Evolution Group. This is confirmed by Exhibits F (a company chart) and G (a settlement agreement showing that all of the Evolution Group Successors are treated as a single "Company").
- 57. Non-Party James Carlson was the Chairman and CEO of Evolution Group from in or about 2007 to October 2011, when Defendants Lewis, Finnegan and Poelman instituted the plan to reorganize Evolution Group, at which point, they purchased his shares in the company.